

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

### Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year..... 26/2021  
 Week Starting - Ending..... 28/06/2021 - 04/07/2021  
 No. of Practices..... 485  
 Population..... 4,776,934

#### National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from 3.3 in week 25 to 3.0 in week 26.
- **Asthma** : decreased from 10.5 in week 25 to 10.2 in week 26.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from 1.4 in week 25 to 1.0 in week 26.
- **Influenza-like illness** : decreased from 1.0 in week 25 to 0.9 in week 26.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from 211.1 in week 25 to 193.4 in week 26.
- **COVID-19** : increased from 125.1 in week 25 to 159.1 in week 26.

#### Regional (North, South, London and Midlands and East)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : increased from 1.1 in week 25 to 1.7 in week 26 in the London region, decreased from 5.6 in week 25 to 5.5 in week 26 in the North region, decreased from 3.2 in week 25 to 2.5 in week 26 in the South region, and decreased from 2.1 in week 25 to 1.7 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : decreased from 13.0 in week 25 to 12.4 in week 26 in the London region, increased from 10.7 in week 25 to 11.0 in week 26 in the North region, increased from 9.7 in week 25 to 9.9 in week 26 in the South region, and decreased from 9.2 in week 25 to 7.4 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from 1.7 in week 25 to 1.0 in week 26 in the London region, decreased from 1.5 in week 25 to 0.9 in week 26 in the North region, decreased from 1.2 in week 25 to 0.9 in week 26 in the South region, and decreased from 1.2 in week 25 to 1.1 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza-like illness** : decreased from 1.0 in week 25 to 0.8 in week 26 in the London region, increased from 0.9 in week 25 to 1.5 in week 26 in the North region, decreased from 1.2 in week 25 to 0.8 in week 26 in the South region, and increased from 0.4 in week 25 to 0.5 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from 188.6 in week 25 to 156.2 in week 26 in the London region, increased from 247.5 in week 25 to 249.2 in week 26 in the North region, decreased from 200.4 in week 25 to 183.9 in week 26 in the South region, and decreased from 201.9 in week 25 to 166.7 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.
- **COVID-19** : increased from 84.8 in week 25 to 112.2 in week 26 in the London region, increased from 229.5 in week 25 to 263.7 in week 26 in the North region, increased from 80.7 in week 25 to 114.6 in week 26 in the South region, and increased from 103.1 in week 25 to 140.8 in week 26 in the Midlands And East region.

### Comment:

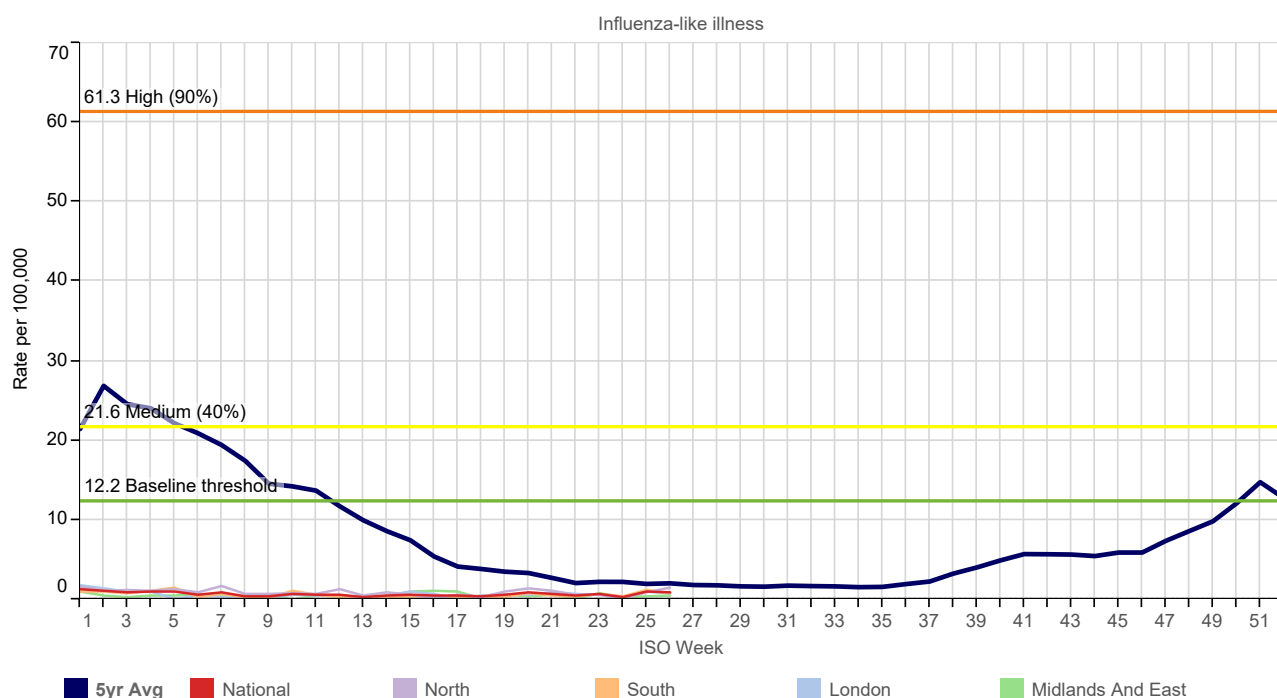
Overall presentations of respiratory diseases have decreased this week, though with the exception of acute laryngitis and tracheitis (page 8), they remain below seasonal levels for this time of year.

The trend in COVID-19 incidence has been upwards and increasing since week 19. During week 26, COVID-19 incidence increased in all regions and all age bands and the highest incidence were in the North region and in people aged 15-64 years. Reported COVID-19 incidence lags behind our other results, as this is a test rather than a clinical diagnosis. This report includes a virology update.

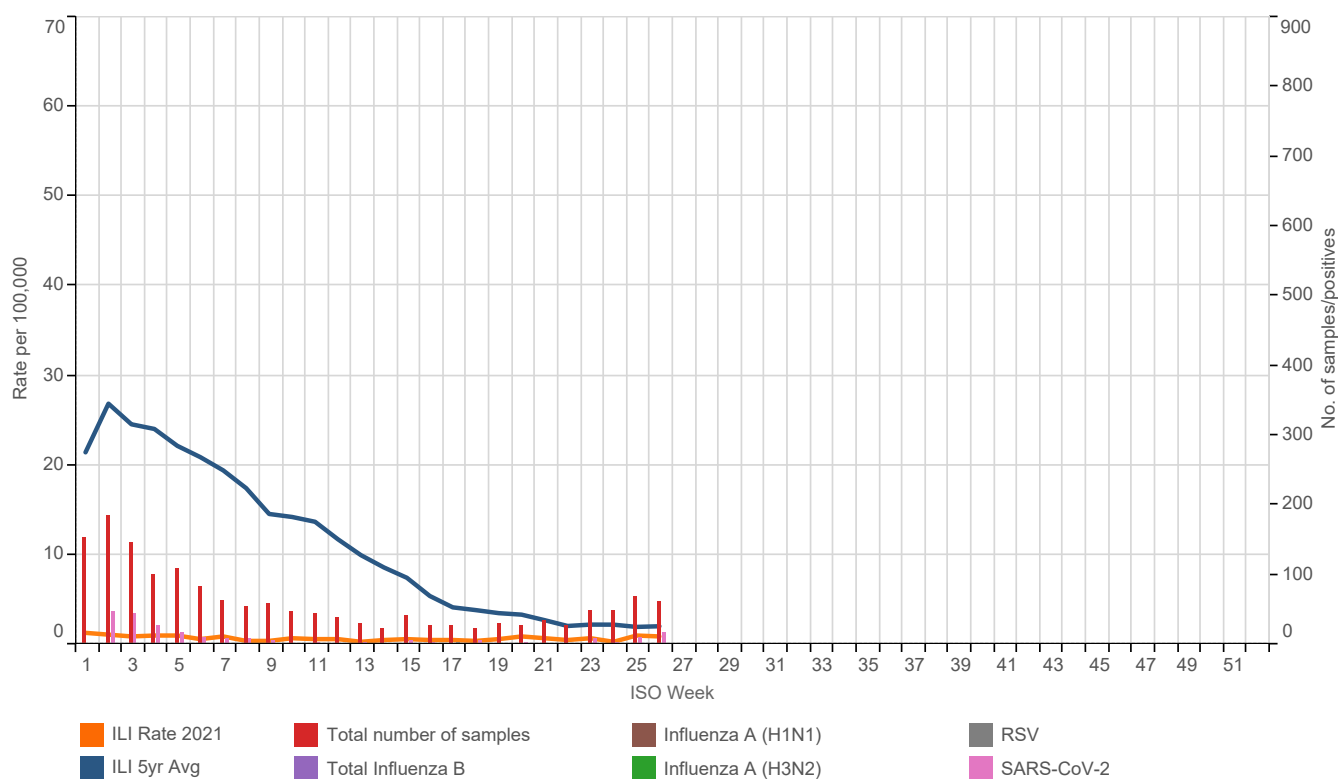
## Winter Focus 2020/21

Please see page 15 for explanatory notes on the data.

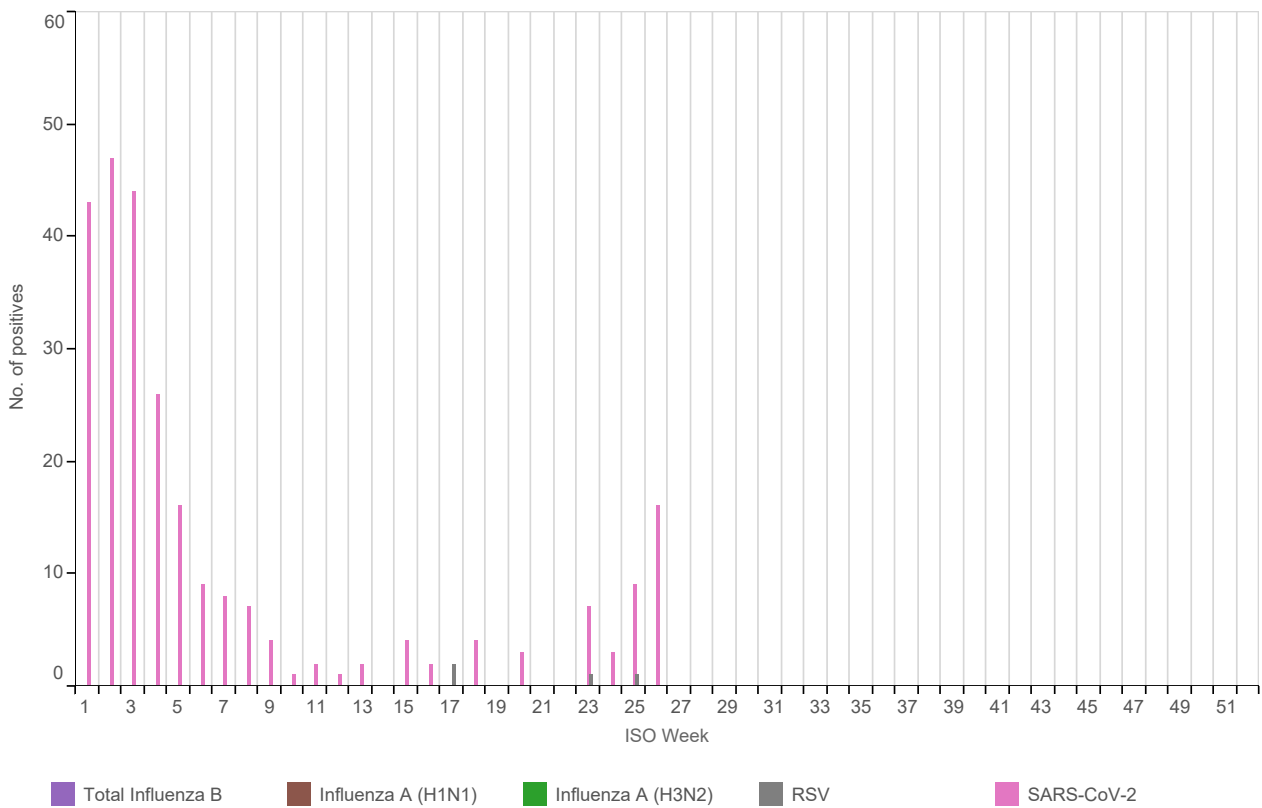
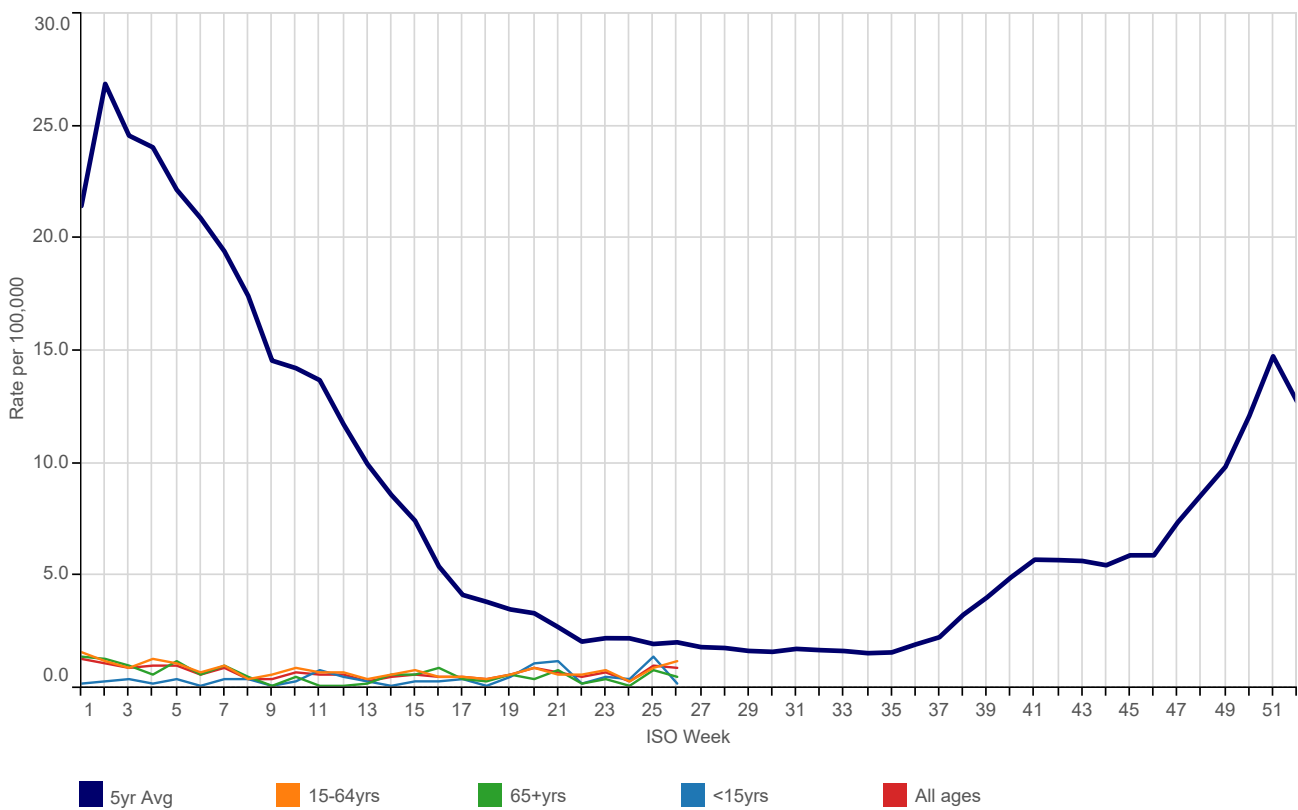
### (A) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2021 by region\*



### (B) RCGP/PHE RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2021\*



\* The rolling average line (blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level (Graph A). The weekly virology samples displayed are offset from the ISO Week (Graphs B & C).

**(C) RCGP/PHE RSV, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virology Swab Surveillance 2021 by viral strain\*****(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2021 by age group\***

**(E) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2021 by age group\***

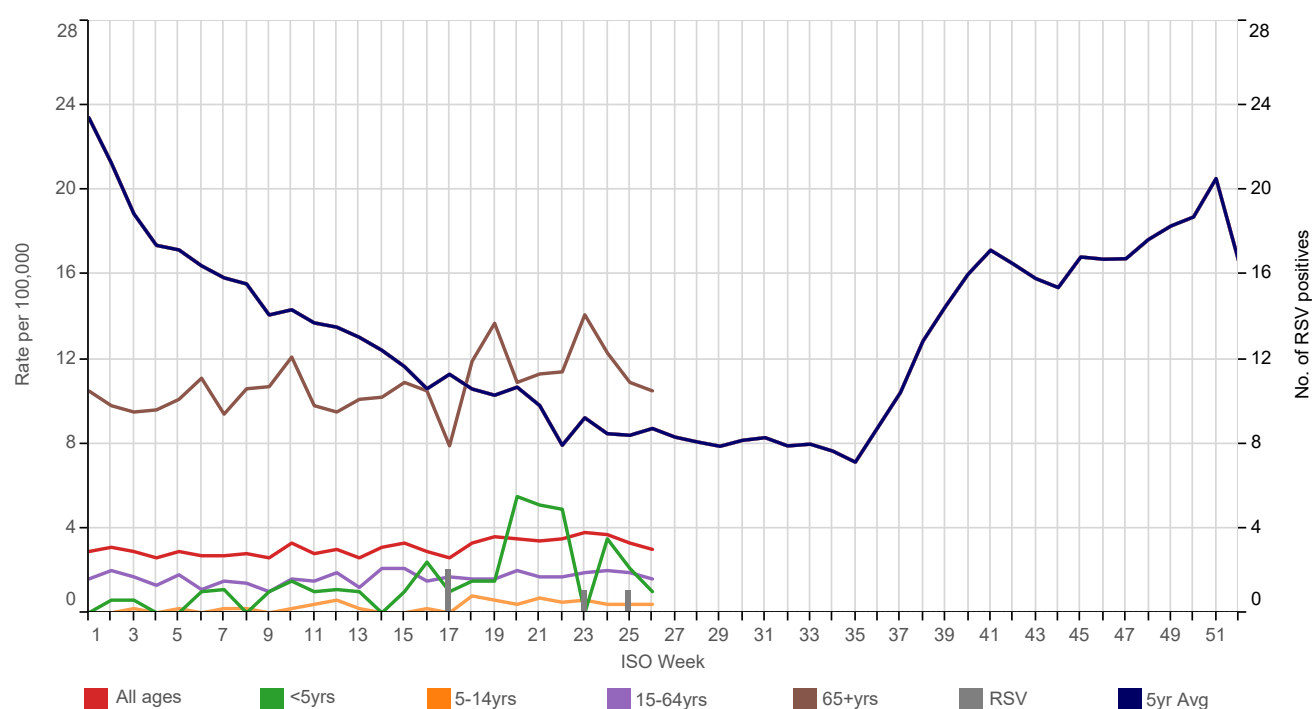
This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

Table 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<15yrs	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1
15-64yrs	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
65+yrs	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.6	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.3
All ages	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4

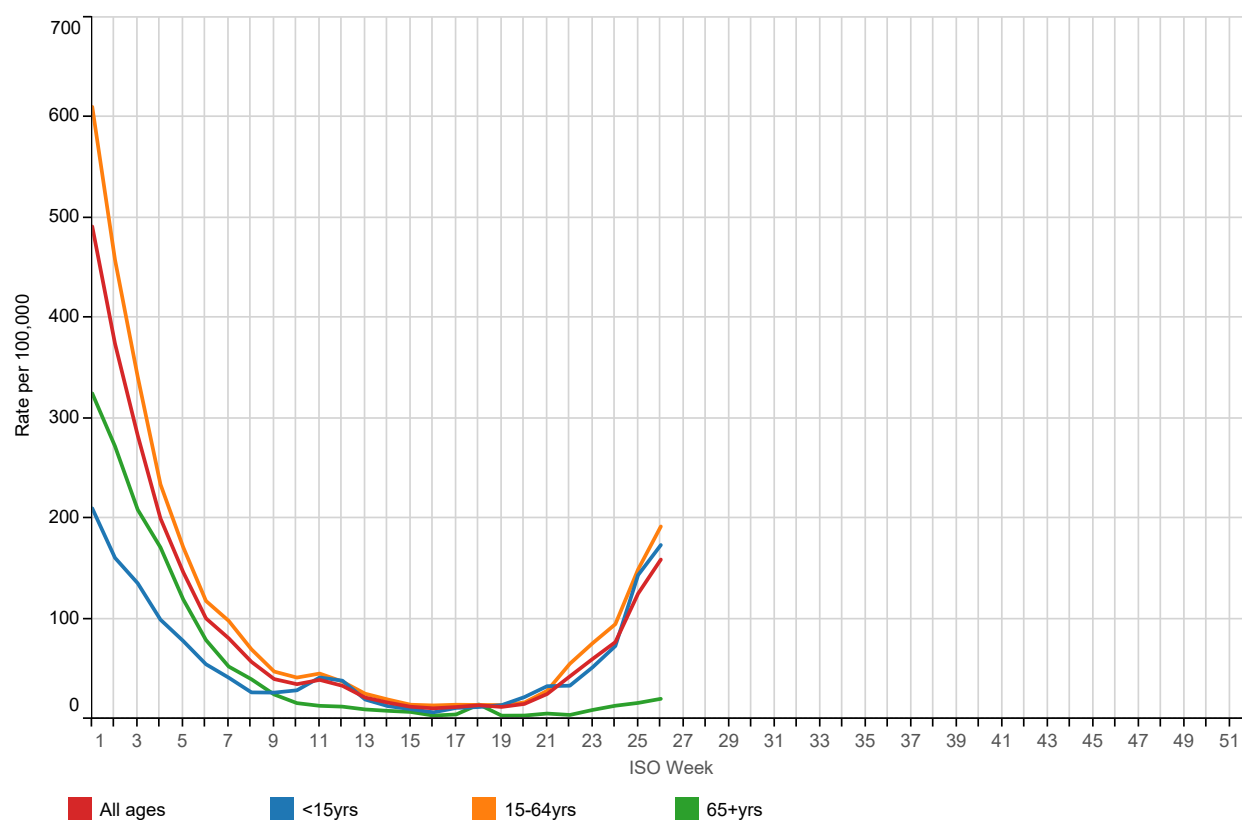
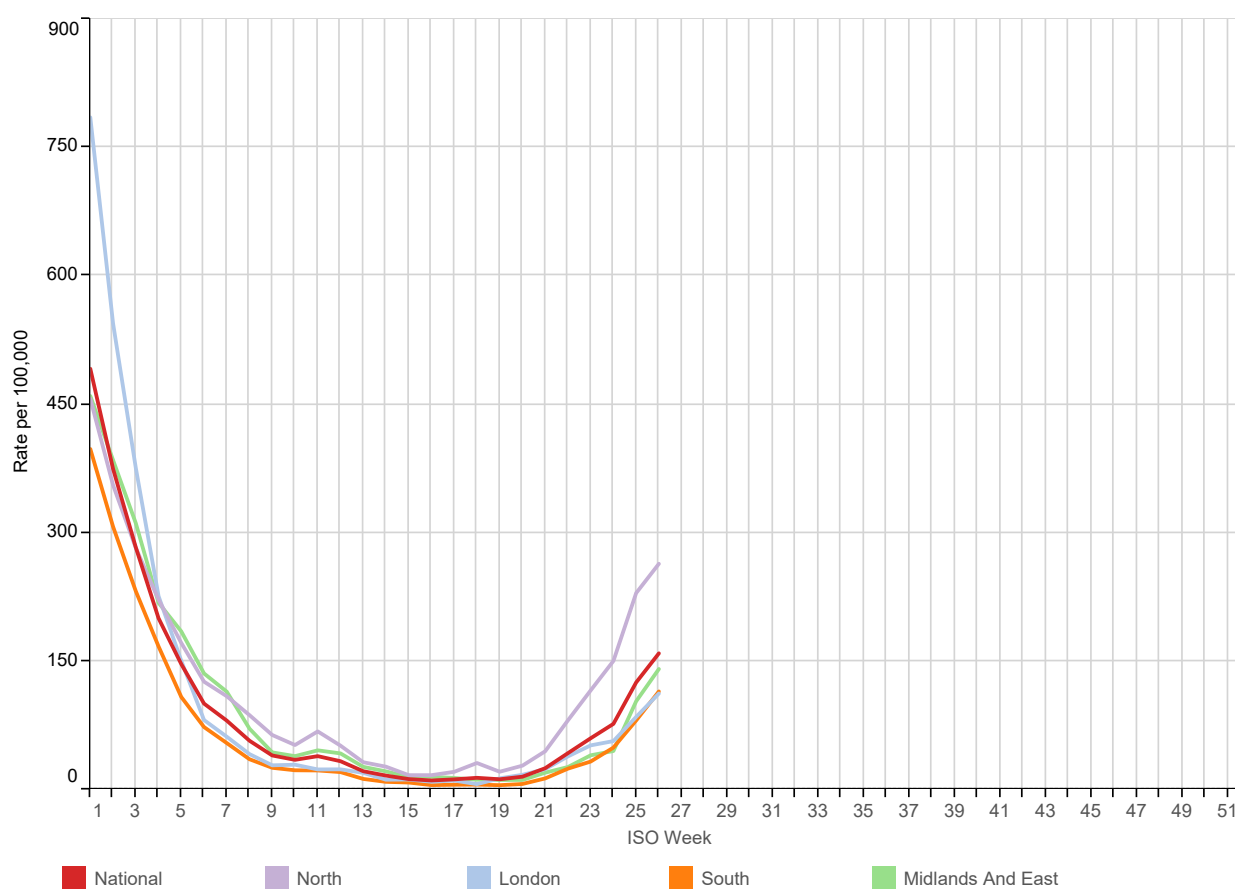
  

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
<15yrs	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.4	0.2										
15-64yrs	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.9	1.2										
65+yrs	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.5										
All ages	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.9										

Table 2	Below Threshold <sup>1</sup>	Threshold to Medium <sup>2</sup>	Medium to High <sup>3</sup>	High to Very High <sup>4</sup>	Above Very High <sup>5</sup>
All Ages	<12.2	12.2 to <21.6	21.6 to <61.3	61.3 to <97.3	97.3+
<15yrs	<10.7	10.7 to <17.6	17.6 to <47.7	47.7 to <74.1	74.1+
15-64yrs	<15.0	15.0 to <26.1	26.1 to <63.4	63.4 to <93.8	93.8+
65+yrs	<11.5	11.5 to <16.5	16.5 to <37.8	37.8 to <54.5	54.5+

**Threshold levels**<sup>1</sup>Below baseline threshold<sup>2</sup>baseline threshold breach to < 40th percentile<sup>3</sup>40th to <90th percentile<sup>4</sup>90th to <97.5th percentile<sup>5</sup>97.5th+ percentile**(F) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2021 by age group\*****Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

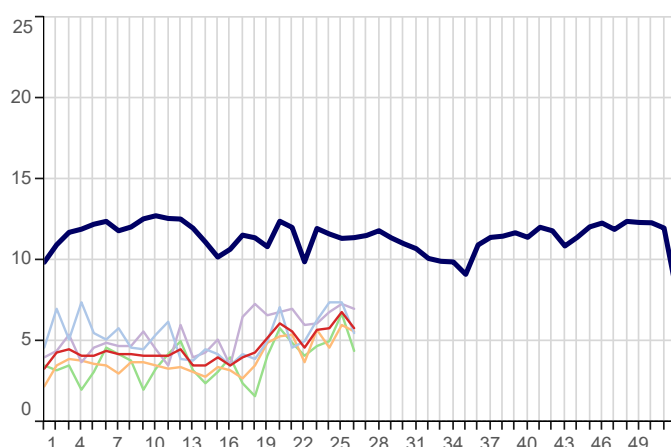
Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis		Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis	
<1yr	0.0	9.3	London	0.8	1.7		
1-4yrs	1.0	1.0	North	1.5	5.5		
5-14yrs	0.0	0.4	South	0.8	2.5		
15-24yrs	0.9	0.4	Midlands And East	0.5	1.7		
25-44yrs	1.4	0.4	National	0.9	3.0		
45-64yrs	1.2	3.4					
65-74yrs	0.7	9.1					
75-84yrs	0.0	12.2					
85+yrs	0.9	11.5					
All ages	0.9	3.0					

**(G) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2021 by age group\*****(H) COVID-19 : national incidence rate 2021 by region\***

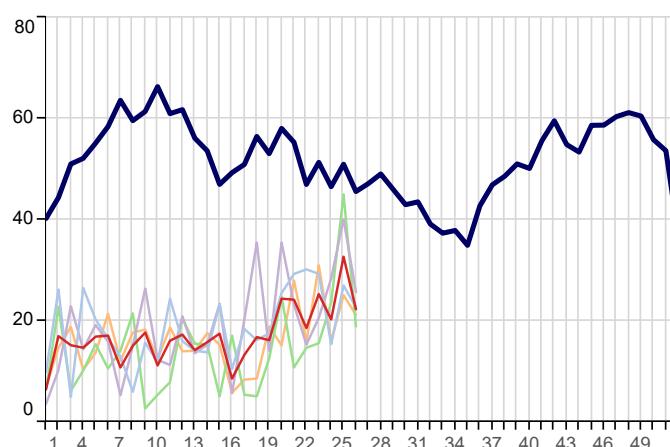
# 1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

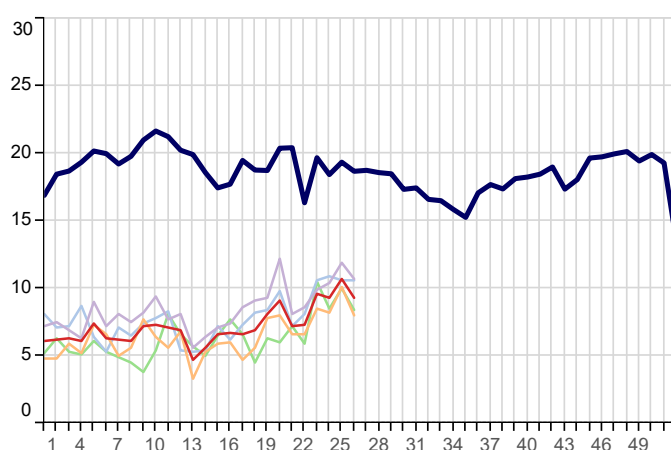
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



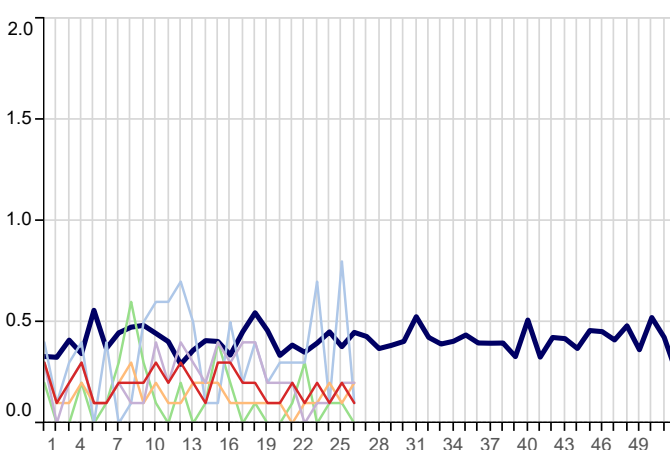
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



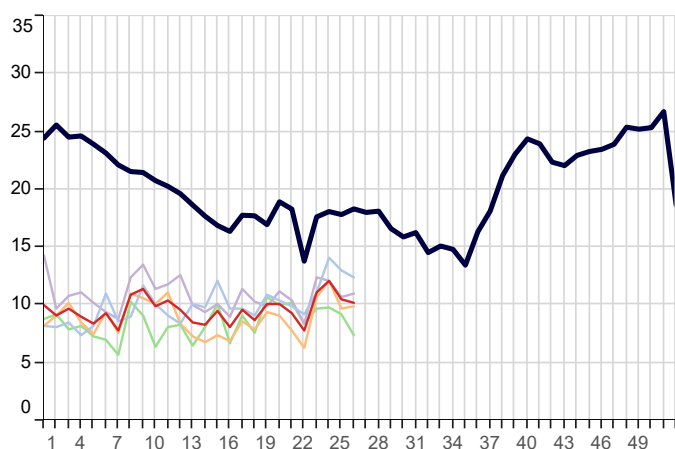
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



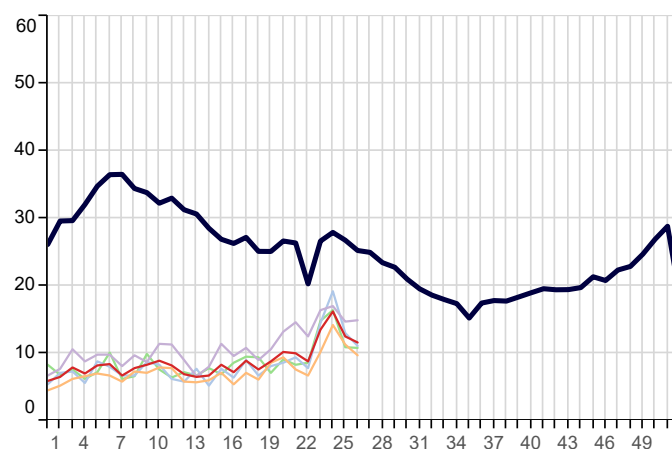
## 2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

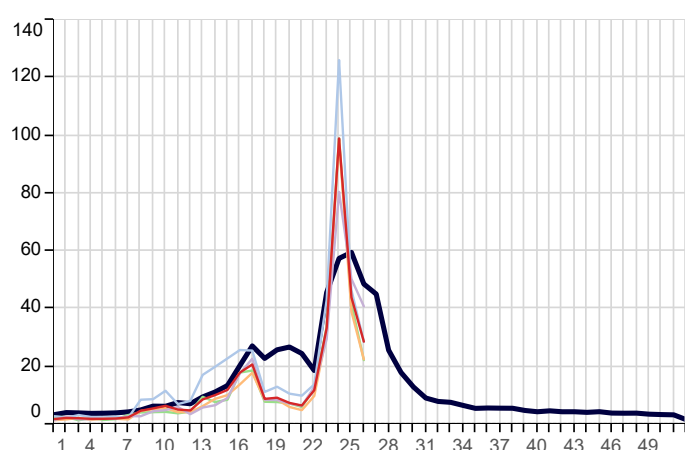
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



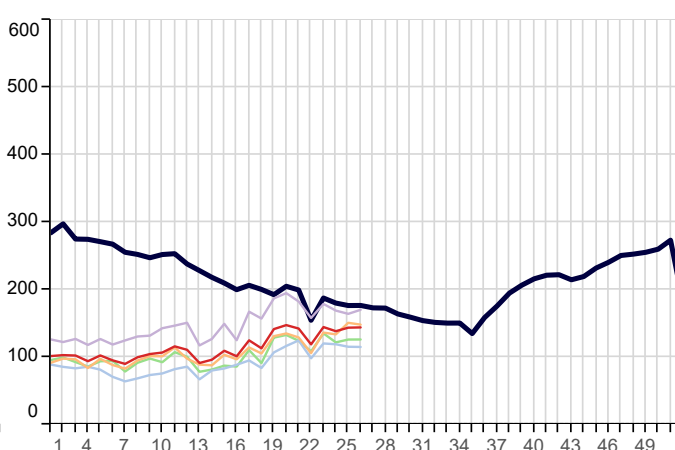
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



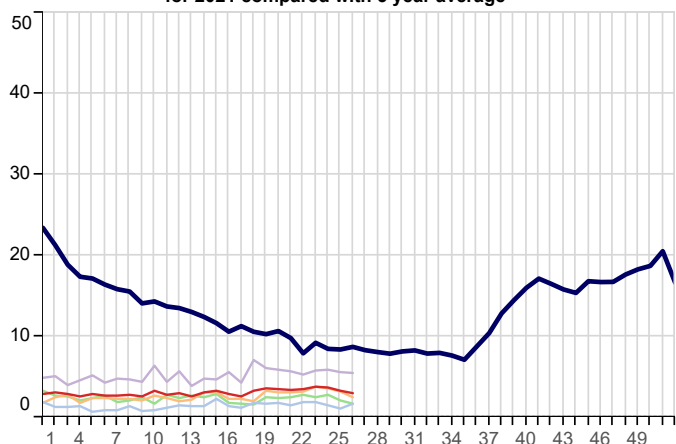
**Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



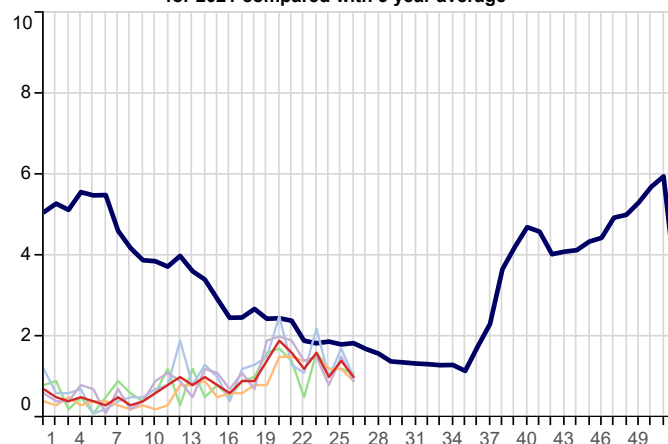
### 3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

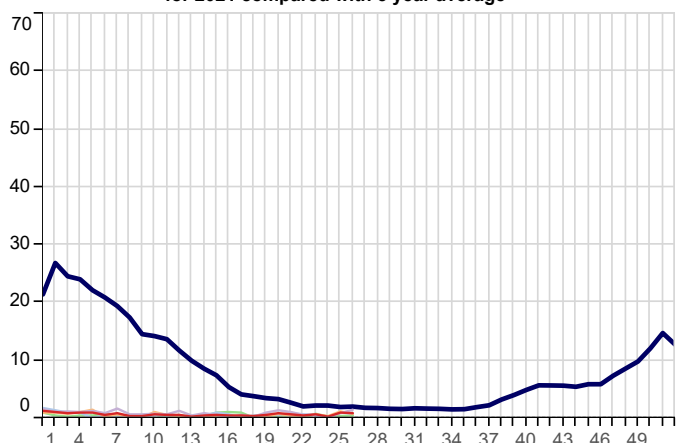
**Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



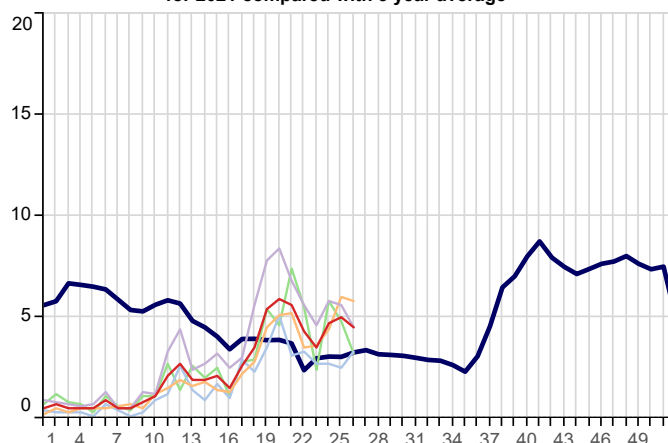
**Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



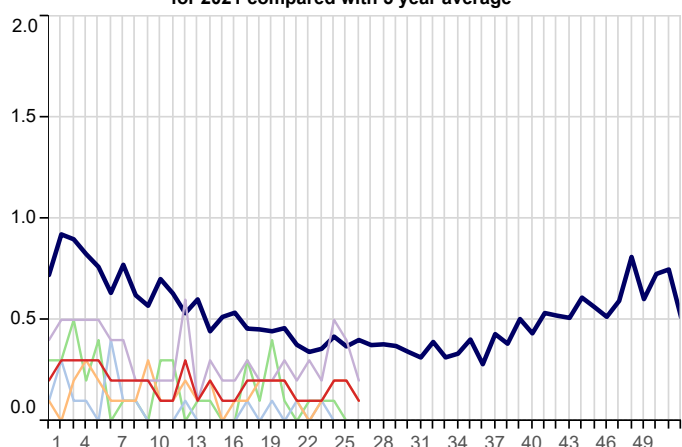
**Influenza-like illness (ICD10: J09-J11)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



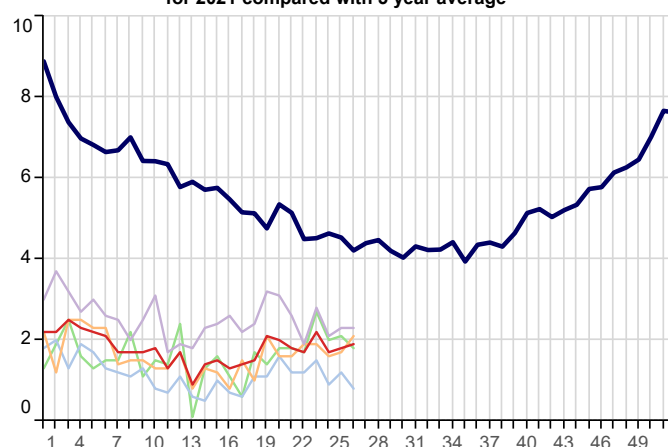
**Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average

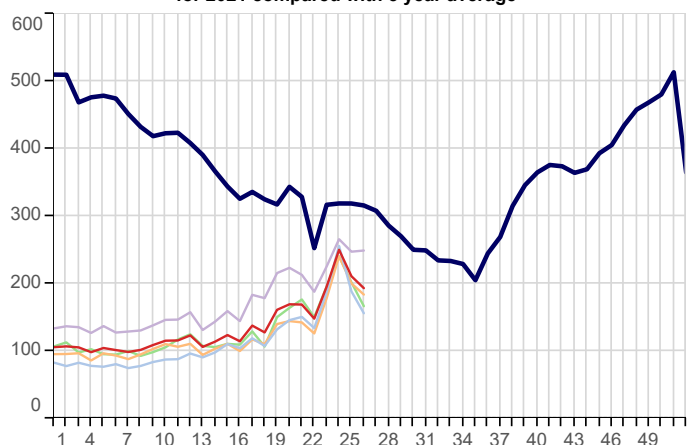




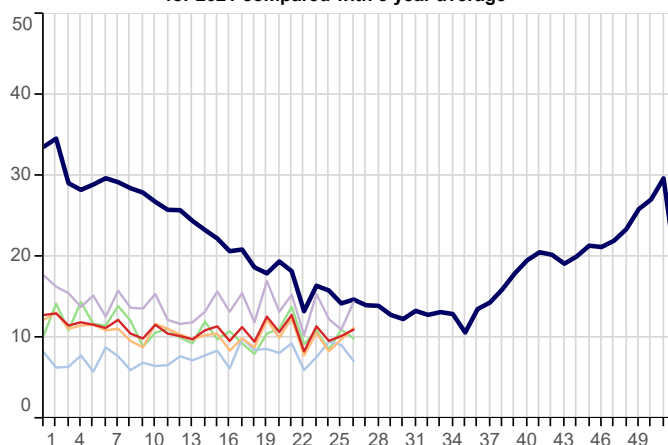
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

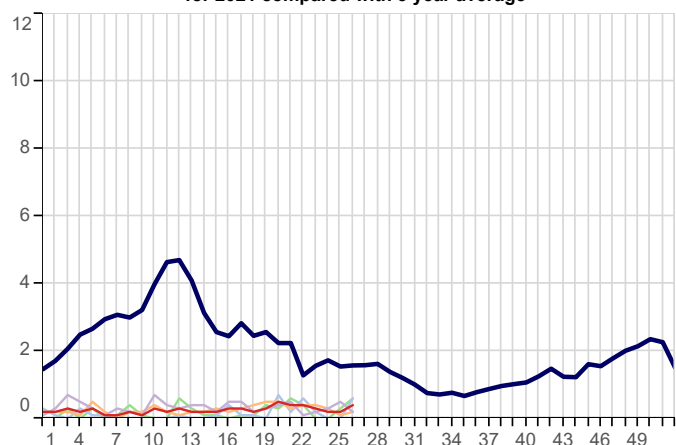
**Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



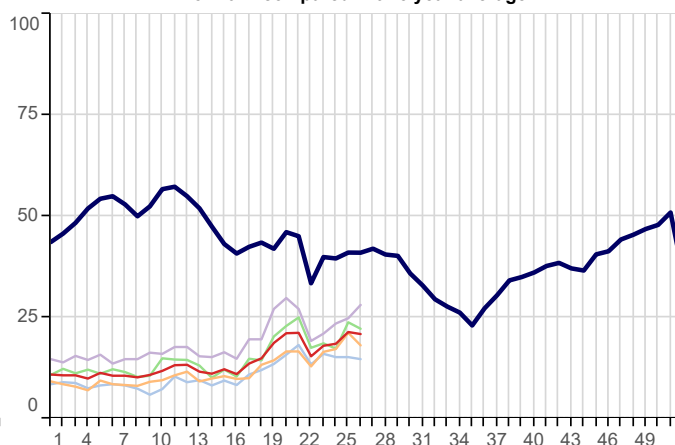
**Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



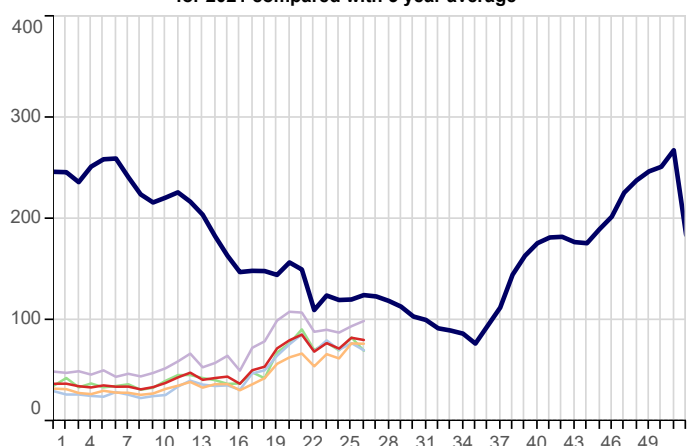
**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J02,J36)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



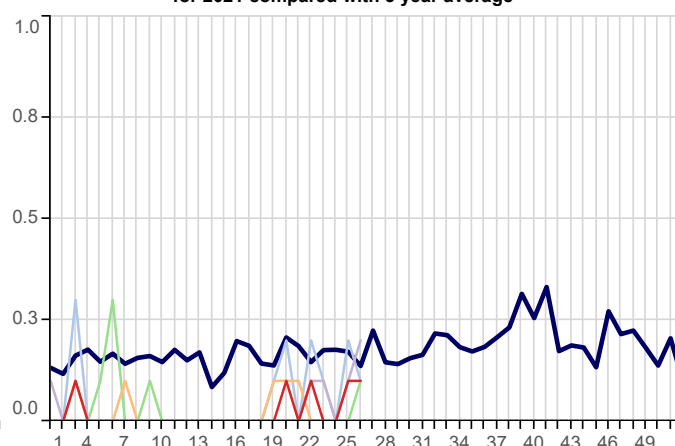
**Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



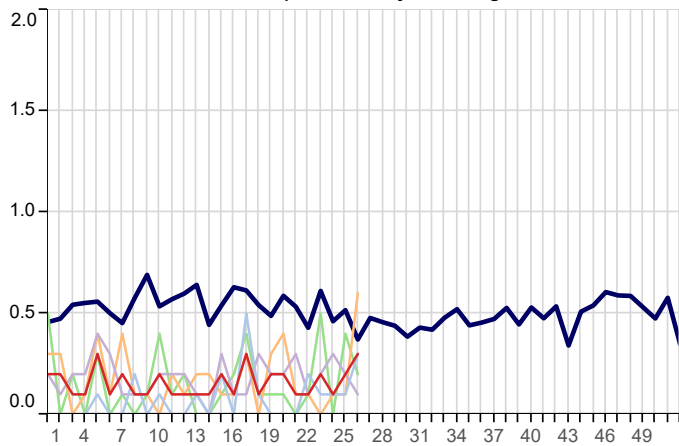
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



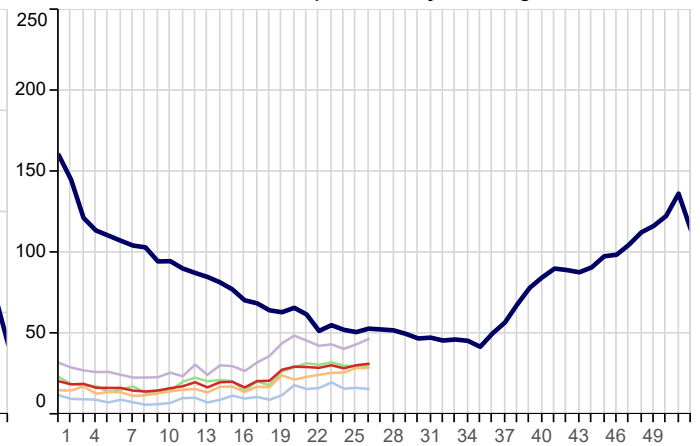
### 3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

■ 5yr Avg ■ National ■ London ■ North ■ South ■ Midlands And East

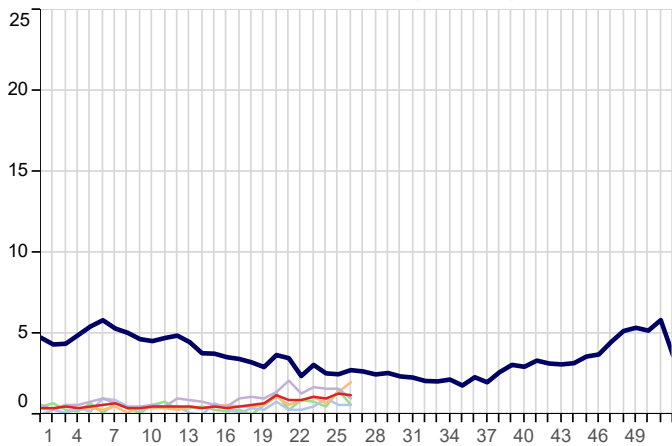
**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



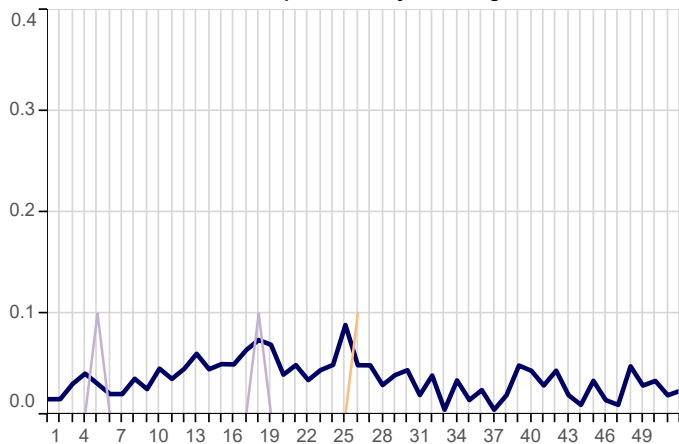
**Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



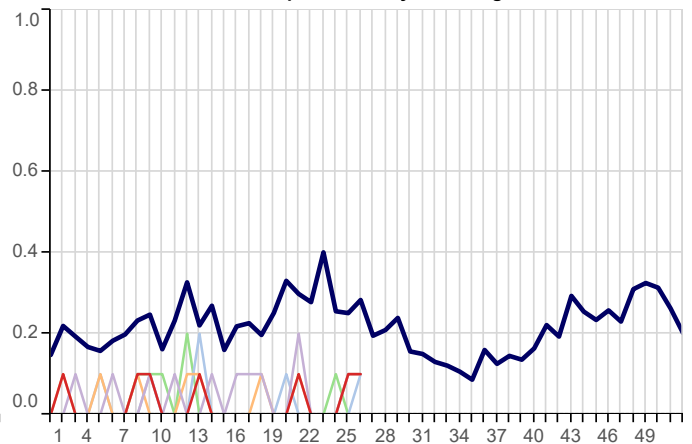
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

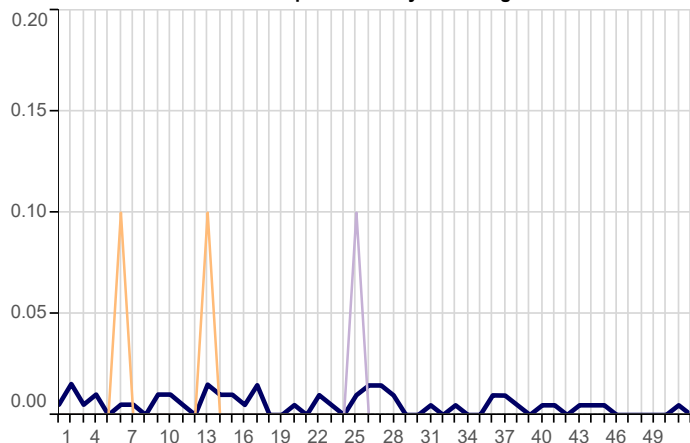
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average

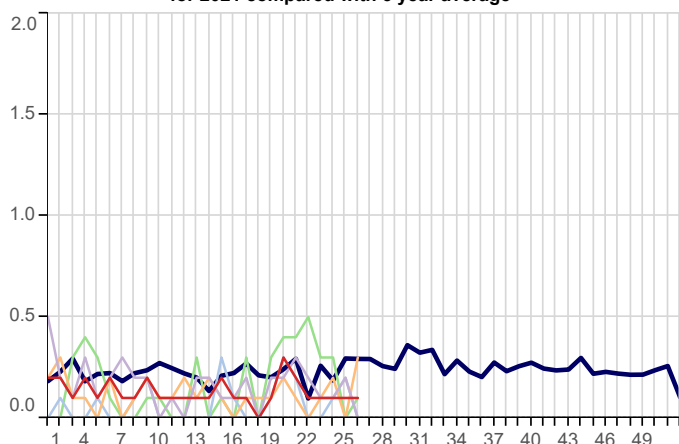


**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average

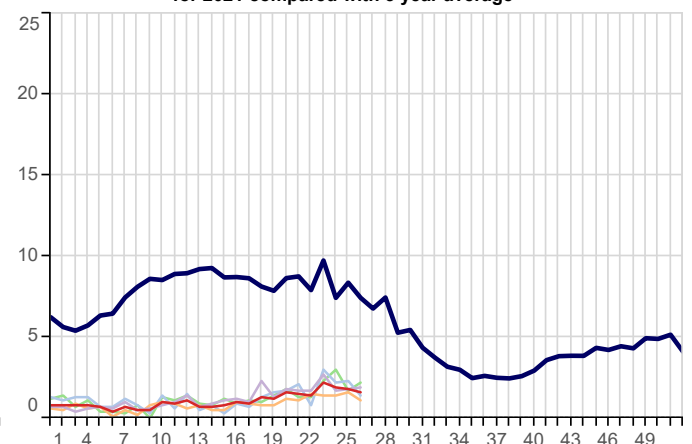


## 5. Skin Contagions

**Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



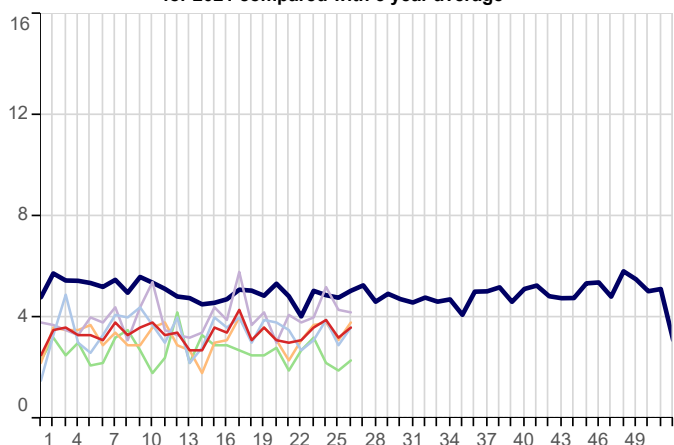
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



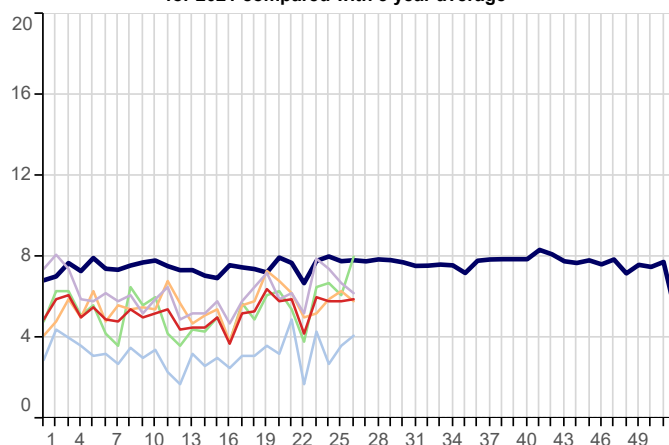
## 5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg   National   London   North   South   Midlands And East

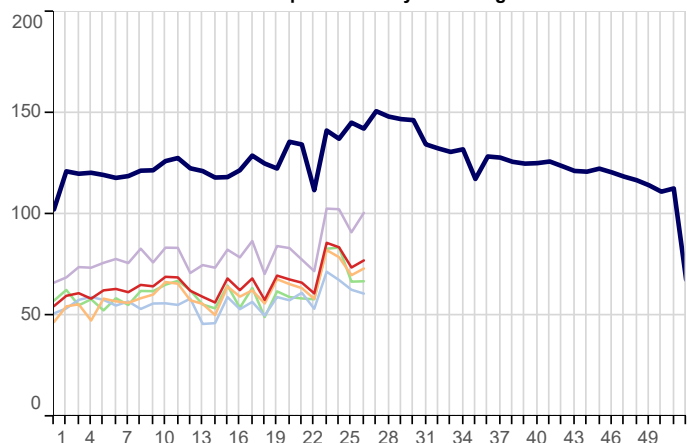
**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



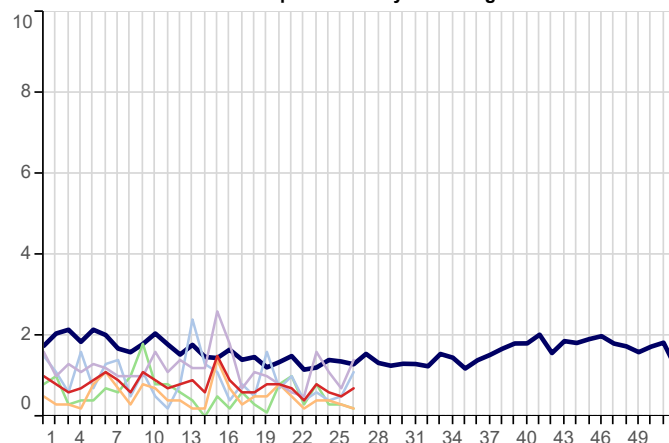
**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



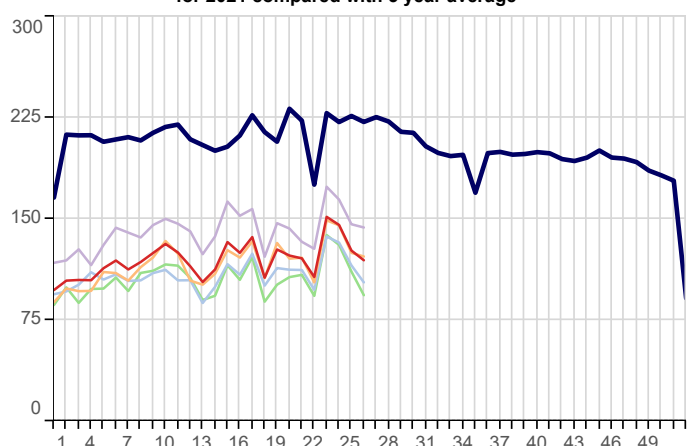
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



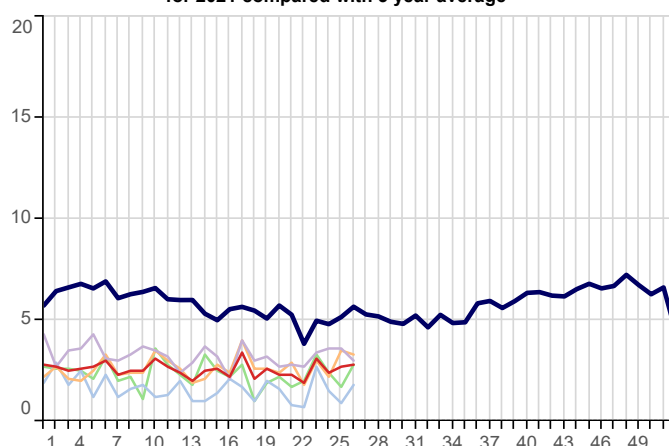
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg

National

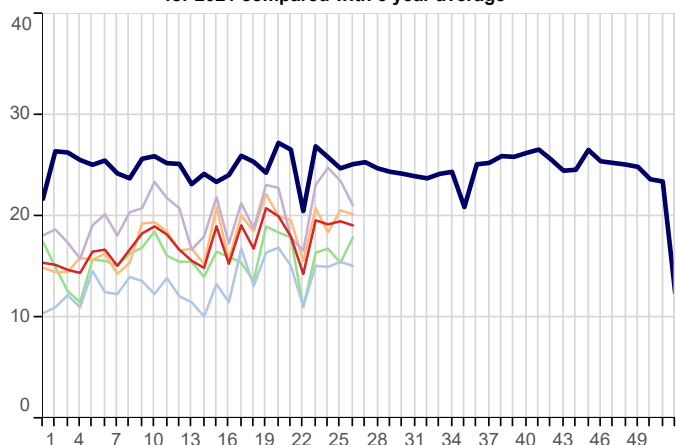
London

North

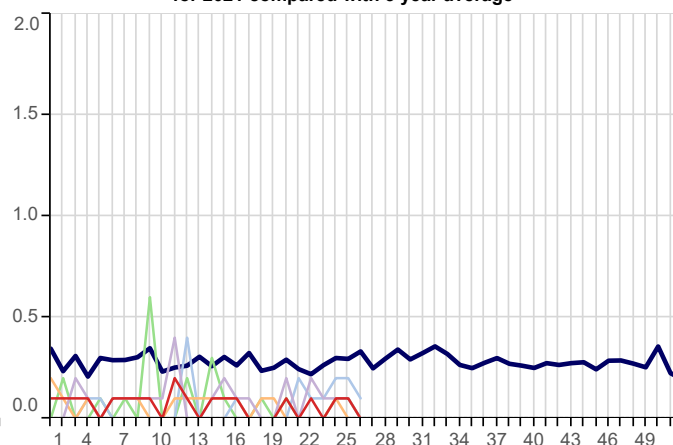
South

Midlands And East

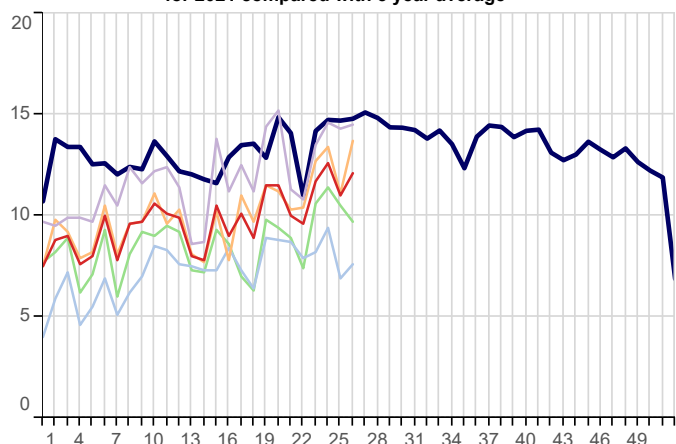
**Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



**Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average

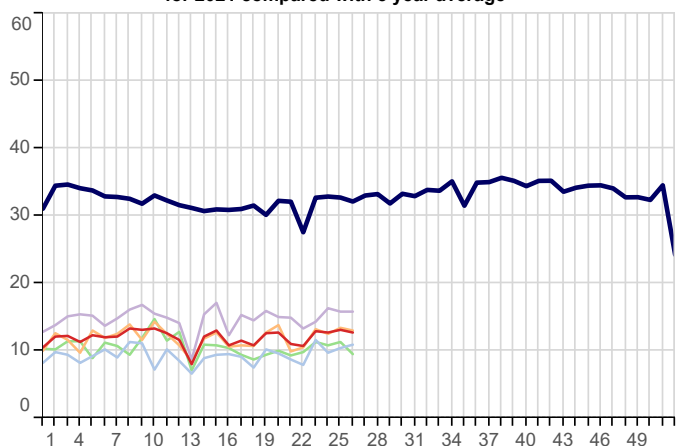


**Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region  
for 2021 compared with 5 year average



## 8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending		28/06/2021 04/07/2021		21/06/2021 27/06/2021		14/06/2021 20/06/2021		07/06/2021 13/06/2021	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	28.7	1,370	44.0	2,012	99.0	4,653	33.4	1,547		
Asthma	10.2	489	10.5	482	12.1	570	11.1	514		
Bronchitis	3.0	144	3.3	150	3.7	174	3.8	175		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.1	7	0.1	4	0.1	7	0.1	5		
Chickenpox	1.6	76	1.8	81	1.9	89	2.2	102		
Common Cold	1.0	46	1.4	63	1.0	49	1.6	76		
Conjunctival Disorders	11.6	554	12.5	570	16.2	763	13.5	623		
Herpes Simplex	3.6	174	3.2	147	3.9	185	3.6	165		
Herpes Zoster	5.9	284	5.8	267	5.8	273	6.0	277		
Impetigo	2.8	136	2.7	125	2.4	115	3.1	143		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	16	0.2	8	0.1	6	0.2	8		
Influenza-like illness	0.9	45	1.0	44	0.3	12	0.7	31		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	5.8	276	6.8	309	5.8	271	5.7	265		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	4.5	215	5.0	230	4.7	220	3.5	162		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	31.4	1,501	30.5	1,395	28.6	1,346	30.5	1,411		
Measles	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.0	1	0.1	4	0.1	5	0.0	2		
Mumps	0.1	3	0.1	3	0.0	1	0.0	0		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	9.3	444	10.7	489	9.3	439	9.6	444		
Otitis Media Acute	1.2	58	1.3	61	1.0	46	1.1	51		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	19.1	911	19.5	893	19.2	902	19.6	908		
Pleurisy	0.1	3	0.2	8	0.2	10	0.1	6		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	1.9	89	1.8	83	1.7	78	2.2	102		
Respiratory System Diseases	193.4	9,238	211.1	9,650	250.3	11,764	195.7	9,065		
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	0.7	34	0.5	21	0.6	27	0.8	38		
Sinusitis	11.0	527	10.2	465	9.6	451	11.4	526		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	77.2	3,689	73.7	3,371	83.7	3,933	85.9	3,978		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	0.4	17	0.2	10	0.2	9	0.3	12		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	12.1	577	11.0	504	12.6	593	11.7	543		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	144.1	6,884	143.7	6,568	138.5	6,509	144.6	6,696		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	119.4	5,705	126.6	5,789	145.6	6,845	151.6	7,022		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	20.9	996	21.4	980	18.5	870	18.0	832		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	80.4	3,840	82.6	3,775	71.9	3,377	77.3	3,582		
Urinary Tract Infections	12.7	609	13.1	600	12.7	598	12.9	598		
Viral Hepatitis	0.1	7	0.2	11	0.1	7	0.2	8		
Whooping Cough	0.1	4	0.1	3	0.0	0	0.0	2		
<b>Practice Count</b>		<b>485</b>		<b>466</b>		<b>470</b>		<b>464</b>		
<b>Denom</b>		<b>4,776,934</b>		<b>4,572,186</b>		<b>4,699,769</b>		<b>4,630,910</b>		

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

### About the report

#### Winter focus

The first two pages of data within this report focus on Influenza-like illness and COVID-19, in order to provide information about seasonal influenza and early warnings of any epidemic.

#### Rate calculation

Each weekly incidence rate is presented per 100,000 population. All presentations are for males and females, and for all age groups, unless otherwise stated.

The denominator used for this report is taken from our most recent extract of data from GP practice systems, and includes all patients currently registered with eligible practices. The denominator varies week-on-week as patients register and deregister; it may also be the case that all patients from an individual practice are excluded because of problems with the data extraction from that practice in a specific week. As stated above, patients who have withheld consent for data-sharing are excluded.

In addition to the national rate, we present data for the four NHS England regions: North; Midlands and East; South; and London.

#### Five-year averages

Weekly rates are set against a five-year average, previously we reported against a ten-year average. The change to a five-year average was made because longer-term trends in the incidence of disease have led to weekly rates for certain diseases becoming increasingly divergent from their ten-year average. The use of five-year averages lessens this effect and enables more meaningful comparison.

#### Threshold calculation for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

We are now using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) to calculate threshold and intensity levels for Influenza-Like Illness. MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculates thresholds and intensity levels based on the pre and post epidemic values. This allows us to report the severity of ILI against multiple thresholds, rather than a simple comparison with the five-year average as the wide variation in ILI year on year, especially during the seasonal peak, makes the average less representative.

In addition to the All Ages thresholds, we have also calculated thresholds for three age bands: those aged under 15, 15-64 year olds and those aged 65 and over. ILI incidence rates vary among different age groups, and the age-specific thresholds allow us to highlight epidemics where ILI disproportionately affects a particular age group.

This methodology is used by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to standardise reporting of influenza activity across Europe, and is also in use by Public Health England. Full details of the methodology can be found in: Vega *et al.* (2012) Influenza surveillance in Europe: establishing epidemic thresholds by the moving epidemic method. *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* 7(4), 546–558. For ease of graphical representation, the final threshold (Very High) is not included in Graph A, page 2, but it is part of Table 3, page 3.

Both the *all-ages* thresholds and the *age-specific* thresholds are shown in Table 2, page 3. Ten years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2006/07- 2016/17 excluding 2009/10).

## About the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

### Acknowledgement:

Staff from the Data Science department at the National Physical Laboratory (<https://www.npl.co.uk/data-science>) assisted in the provision of and extension of the primary care national surveillance reports during the 2020 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic; as well as adding resilience.

### What we do

The RCGP RSC was established in 1957, with the current name in use since 2009. The Centre is an internationally renowned source of information, analysis and interpretation concerning the onset, patterns, prevalence and trends over time of morbidity in primary care. The RSC is an active research and surveillance unit that collects and monitors data; its most important research is the surveillance of influenza and the monitoring of vaccine effectiveness.

The RSC data and analytics hub is housed at the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners Research and Surveillance Centre.

Further information about the RSC can be found on our website:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc>

### Our data extraction process and information governance

Data are extracted twice weekly from practice systems by Wellbeing data management on the RCGP's behalf. Patients who have withheld consent for data sharing are excluded from the extraction process.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the RCGP data and analytics hub at the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners Research and Surveillance Centre. Both Wellbeing data management and the University of Oxford are Registered and compliant with the Data Protection Act and fully compliant with all relevant NHS Digital data information governance best practice.

### What the data is used for

The RCGP RSC has been providing reports weekly about health and disease, called the Weekly Returns Service (WRS) since 1964. The WRS monitors the number of patients consulting with new episodes of illness classified by diagnosis in England and provides weekly incidence rates per 100,000 population for these new episodes of illness. It is the key primary care element of the national disease monitoring systems run by Public Health England. The bulletin can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/syndromic-surveillance-summary>

In addition to the WRS, the data is used for other research studies. Any other uses of the data for research follow ethical approval or agreement from NIHR proportionate review, and where relevant Health Research Authority Confidential Advisory Group advice that further approval is not needed. Full details can be found on our website:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc>

### For further information

For further information about the work of the RSC, or if you would like to be included on our email notification list, please contact:

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